GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:146
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
LIFE SAVING DRUGS AND ASSISTANCE FOR GUJARAT
AMAR ROY PRADHAN;DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a possible epidemic in the earthquake hit areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government of Gujarat for relief, aid and life saving drugs for the earthquake victims; and

(d) if so, action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 146 FOR 7.3.2001

(a) & (b): A well-integrated disease surveillance network has been put in place in the affected areas of Gujarat. The various measures being adopted are intended to achieve the following outcomes:

- Earlier detection and reporting of suspected cases.
- Increased epidemiological surveillance.
- Laboratory confirmation of diagnosis of any disease of epidemic nature.

Teams of public health experts from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi, National Anti-Malaria Programme (NAMP), Delhi, National Institute of Virology, Pune, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric diseases, Kolkata, Nationa Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, and NICD, Bangalore visited affected areas of Gujarat to assist and advise the State Health authorities about the public health measures required.

A self-contained team with personnel drawn from various institutes in Ahmedabad, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, along with a field laboratory for early diagnosis, is stationed at Bhuj since 5th February. Disease surveillance and Public Health measures are being carried out effectively in co-operation with state health authorities.

The State Government has established control rooms at the state, regional and district health offices and deployed 239 mobile teams to visit villages of Kutch districts for rendering medical care, distribution of ORS packet, Chlorine tablets, and to monitor chlorination of drinking water. Inspection of cooked food is also being carried out by the Drug and Food Control Commisionerate. Disposal of dead bodies and disinfection of vulnerable areas have been carried out, laboratories have been established at Bhuj, Rapar, Anjar, and Gandhidham for examination of blood smears for malaria. A measles immunization campaign has been started for children under the age group of 5 years.

The proper and timely action taken by the State Health authorities in co-ordination with the Central Government has prevented the outbreak of any disease in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Medical relief items worth Rs. 5.70 crores have been supplied to the State Government. Public Health experts along with necessary manpower have been stationed at Bhuj to assist the State Health authorities in the ongoing public health measures. A field laboratory, along with a specialist microbiologist, has been established at Bhuj since 6th February to detect the outbreak of any

disease and check quality of drinking water.